

SALATUL AYAAT

(According to the Rulings of Ayatullah Sayyid Ali al-Husaini Al-Sistani Dama-Dhilluhu contained in his Risalah – Islamic Laws, Simplified Islamic Laws and Jurisprudence Made Easy).

SALATUL AYAAT becomes obligatory on account of the following four things:

1. Solar Eclipse
2. Lunar Eclipse

Salatul Ayaat becomes *wajib* even if the moon or the sun is partially eclipsed, and even if they do not bring about any fear.

If a person delays offering of **Salatul Ayaat** till the sun or the moon starts coming out of the eclipse, the *niyyah* of *ada* (i.e. praying within time) will be in order, but if he offers the prayers after the eclipse is over, he should make a *niyyah* of *qadha*.

If a person did not know about the sun or the moon eclipse, and came to know after the eclipse was over, he should give its *qadha* only if it was a total eclipse. If it was only a partial eclipse *qadha* will not be obligatory.

3. Earthquake
(as an obligatory precaution, even if no one is frightened).

If the earthquake was experienced and felt by an individual then **Salatul Ayaat** becomes obligatory and if it was not recited then the *qadha* is *wajib*. If the earthquake was neither experienced nor felt, due to sleep for example, then the recitation of **Salatul Ayaat** is not obligatory and hence no *qadha* either. (office of Ayatullah Sistani in London reported by The Council of European Jamats)

4. Any other natural occurrence that happens in the sky or on earth, such as thunderstorm, hurricane, tornado, twister, whirlwind, cyclone, windstorm, avalanche, etc. provided that it causes most people to be fearful and scared.

When earthquake, thunderstorm and other similar events take place, a person should offer **Salatul Ayaat** immediately, not allowing undue delay.

GENERAL MASAELS

1. If several events which make **Salatul Ayaat** obligatory occur together, one should offer **Salatul Ayaat** for each of them. For example, if solar eclipse as well as earthquake take place, one should offer separate **Salatul Ayaat** for each of these two occurrences.

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2. Offering of **Salatul Ayaat** is obligatory for the residents of only that town in which the event takes place. It is not obligatory for the people of other towns.
3. If a person realizes that **Salatul Ayaat** offered by him was void, he should offer it again. And if the time has passed, he should offer its *qadha*.
4. If solar or lunar eclipse, thunder, lightning or any other similar events takes place when a woman is in her menses or nifas, it will not be obligatory for her to offer **Salatul Ayaat** nor is there any *qadha* upon her.
5. If a person doubts as to how many *rak'ats* he has offered in **Salatul Ayaat**, and is unable to arrive at any decision, his prayer is void.
6. Every *ruku* of **Salatul Ayaat** is a *ruk'n*, and if any addition or deduction takes place in them, whether intentionally or unintentionally, the prayer is void.

METHOD OF OFFERING SALATUL AYAAT

Salatul Ayaat consists of two *rak'ats* having five *ruku* in each *rak'at*. Its method of praying is as follows:

- ✚ *Niyyah*.
- ✚ *Takbiratul Ihram*
- ✚ Recite *Surah al-Hamd* and any other *Surah*.
- ✚ Perform *Ruku* (This will be your **first** *Ruku*)
- ✚ Stand and recite *Surah al-Hamd* and any other *Surah*.
- ✚ Perform *Ruku* (This will be your **second** *Ruku*)
- ✚ Stand and recite *Surah al-Hamd* and any other *Surah*.
- ✚ Perform *Ruku* (This will be your **third** *Ruku*)
- ✚ Stand and recite *Surah al-Hamd* and any other *Surah*.
- ✚ Perform *Ruku* (This will be your **fourth** *Ruku*)
- ✚ Stand and recite *Surah al-Hamd* and any other *Surah*.
- ✚ Perform *Ruku* (This will be your **fifth** *Ruku*)
- ✚ After rising from the fifth *Ruku*, go to *Sajdah*.
- ✚ Perform the two *Sajdah* and rise for the second *Rak'at*.

The same procedure is to be repeated as in the case of the first *Rak'at*. After you have completed 5 *Ruku* in the second *Rak'at*, you will conclude your **Salatul Ayaat** in the usual way by performing two *sajdah*, *tashahhud* and *salaam*.

Note: It is *mustahab* to recite *Qunuut* before the second and fourth *Ruku* (in the first *Rak'at*) and before sixth, eighth and tenth *ruku* (in the second *Rak'at*).

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SHORTER VERSION OF SALATUL AYAAT

Ayatullah Sayyid Ali al-Husaini al-Sistani Dama-Dhilluhu does not consider the *Bismil-Lah* (i.e. *Bismillahir-Rahmanir-Raheem*) as part of all the *Surahs* of the Qur'an other than *Surah Al-Fatiha*. Nevertheless, it is obligatory (*wajib*) to recite it as the initial *ayah* of every *Surah* except *Surah AL-TAUBA* in prayers or when one recites the Qur'an. When praying the short version of **Salatul Ayaat** care should be taken in selecting a *Surah* for recitation. The *Surah* selected should contain (at least) 5 *Ayaats* apart from *Bismil-Lah*. The best selection would be *Surah Al-Qadr* which contains exactly 5 *Ayaats* apart from *Bismil-Lah*.

Salatul Ayaat (shorter version) consists of two *rak'ats* having five *ruku* in each *rak'at*. Its method of praying is as follows:

Niyyah.

Takbiratul Ihram

Recite *Surah al-Hamd* and then

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنَّا أَنْزَلْنَاهُ فِي لَيْلَةِ الْقَدْرِ {1}

Perform *Ruku*. (This will be your **first** *Ruku*)

Stand and recite

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ {2}

Perform *Ruku*. (This will be your **second** *Ruku*)

Stand and recite

لَيْلَةُ الْقَدْرِ خَيْرٌ مِّنْ أَلْفِ شَهْرٍ {3}

Perform *Ruku*. (This will be your **third** *Ruku*)

Stand and recite

تَنْزِيلُ الْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالرُّوحُ فِيهَا بِإِذْنِ رَبِّهِمْ مِّنْ كُلِّ أَمْرٍ {4}

Perform *Ruku*. (This will be your **fourth** *Ruku*)

Stand and recite

سَلَامٌ هِيَ حَتَّىٰ مَطَلَعِ الْفَجْرِ {5}

Perform *Ruku*. (This will be your **fifth** *Ruku*)

After rising from the fifth *Ruku*, go to *Sajdah*.

Perform the two *Sajdah* and rise for the second *Rak'at*.

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The same procedure is to be repeated as in the case of the first *Rak'at*. After you have completed 5 *Ruku* in the second *Rak'at*, you will conclude your *Salatul Ayaat* in the usual way by performing two *Sajdah*, *Tashahhud* and *Salaam*.

Note: It is *mustahab* to recite *Qunuut* before the second and fourth *Ruku* (in the first *Rak'at*) and before sixth, eighth and tenth *Ruku* (in the second *Rak'at*).

Checked and verified by:

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